

**A. REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 remain in this application. The specification is amended per the attached substitute specification. For convenience, the claims are presented herein the section titled "Amendments to the claims". No new matter is added by these amendments and the amendments are not intended to affect the scope of the claims.

**1. DRAWINGS**

The drawings were objected to on the basis of various formalities. Substitute formal drawings are provided to correct these deficiencies. Specifically, Figure 1 is amended to omit element 8 which was not referred to in the specification. In Figure 1A and Figure 1B, packet handling circuitry 2 is more clearly identified, and the location of packet handling circuitry is modified to correspond to Fig. 1 as originally filed. In Figure 2, the reference signs "4I" and "4T" are changed to "4" so as to be consistent with the specification. The unclear reference sign at the bottom of the Initiator element is removed. Fig. 1 is corrected to change a reference sign "14", to "M" to be consistent with the specification. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objections to the Drawings be withdrawn.

**2. TITLE**

The Title is amended to improve descriptiveness. It is respectfully requested that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

**3. CLAIM OBJECTIONS**

The amendments to claims 2 and 6 are believed to overcome the objections raised in the office action.

**4. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112**

The amendments to claims 14 are believed to overcome the grounds of rejection raised in the office action. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

**5. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103**

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 on various grounds, however, each rejection was based upon U.S. Patent 6,397,325 to Jones et al.. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Jones et al. reference shares a common inventor (Andrew M. Jones) as the present invention. Further, the owner of the Jones et al. reference, STMicroelectronics, Ltd. is the same as the owner of the instant application. It would appear that Jones et al. would only available as a reference under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) or (f). However, under 35 U.S.C. 103(c), the Jones et al. reference is not available as a reference because the reference and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or were subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

This response is filed together with a request for a Continued Prosecution Application to ensure the applicability of the amendments to 35 U.S.C. 103(c).

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 be withdrawn.

**6. CONCLUSION**

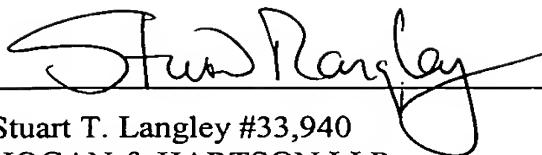
In view of all of the above claims 1-20 are believed to be allowable and the case in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. The references that were cited and not relied upon are believed to be no more pertinent than those references that were relied upon.

This response is filed together with a check in the amount of \$1056 for the CPA fee and \$930 to cover the extension of time required in prior application 09/410,974 as determined on the accompanying transmittal letter. Should any other fee be required, please charge Deposit 50-1123. Should any additional extension of time or fee be required please consider this a petition therefore and charge the required fee to Deposit Account 50-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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